
Formal Resignation - Hugues Hoppe

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Dear Executive Committee and ACM Representatives,

I am resigning from my role as Director on the SIGGRAPH Executive Committee, effective immediately.

I joined the EC with a mission to strengthen the value of the SIGGRAPH experience for full-conference attendees. Feedback from SIGGRAPH 2025 is unambiguous: participants value networking and community—reconnecting with colleagues, meeting face-to-face, and the synergy of informal gatherings. Conversely, their primary frustrations remain the job fair, capacity constraints, and a cost-to-value ratio described as “incredibly expensive.”

Since my appointment, the attendee cost-benefit balance has only deteriorated. For SIGGRAPH 2026:

- Registration prices are increasing.
- The conference reception has not been reinstated.
- All coffee breaks and snacks have been eliminated.
- Session recording for live or on-demand viewing has been discontinued.

At a \$1,000+ registration fee, a welcome reception and basic hospitality are foundational elements of a conference of this stature. Eliminating them entirely weakens precisely the community experience attendees value most.

While full-conference registration generates millions in revenue, the majority of this income is absorbed by large, administrative third-party contracts with little visible presence at the conference. We have missed critical opportunities to address this:

- **Marketing/Web/GraphicDesign:** Rather than issuing an RFP for a concluding contract, the EC opted for a negotiated reduction.
- **Audio/Visual:** The second-largest contract was presented for multi-year renewal at the Feb 10 meeting with five minutes for discussion, no documentation, and an immediate call for a vote. This falls well below acceptable governance standards.
- **Administration/Management:** The largest contract will not be reconsidered for two years, with no appetite to revisit it sooner.

This avoidance of competitive bidding is reinforced by an operational environment where vendor influence is deeply embedded. A single firm is responsible for both our primary administration and marketing contracts—and also provides the staff who manage our internal meetings—creating a fundamental conflict of interest. That dynamic was underscored by holding our most recent multi-day meeting at the firm’s headquarters, a setting that further erodes the necessary boundary between the board and its vendors.

The impact of these misplaced priorities was most evident during our Jan 13 review of the SIGGRAPH 2026 budget. During that meeting, the EC focused on the loss of catered meals for committee members and designated their restoration as the first priority for any surplus funds.

As long as administrative contracts remain stagnant and internal perks are prioritized over the attendee experience, I see no path toward meaningful reform. Therefore, I can no longer, in good conscience, continue in this role.